

NEWS

Woman loses half her body weight

Page 4

WHAT'S ON

Your guide to the big summer festivals

Page 17

SPORT

Surbiton's hockey stars aim for glory

Page 24



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Kingston Guardian

www.kingstonguardian.co.uk

April 14, 2016

60p

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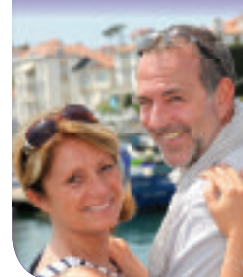
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Kingston Guardian

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April 14, 2016

60p

SCAM POCKETED £5m

Father and son laundered charity money in Gift Aid receipt ruse

REPORTER

COURT REPORTER

newsdesk@kingstonguardian.co.uk

A FATHER and son are facing jail after being convicted of involvement in a £5m charity Gift Aid scam.

John Davies, 58, pocketed vast sums in tax relief paid by the Government by organising Gift Aid repayments through the Sompan Foundation and Kurbet Foundation, which were registered in Kingston.

But many individuals said to have donated to the charities did not even exist, Southwark Crown Court heard.

His son Benjamin Davies, 31, was also found guilty of money laundering while daughter Melody Davies, 28, was cleared of being involved in the scam.

John Davies and a fourth defendant Olsi Vullnetari, 38, were found guilty of cheating public revenue and money laundering between June 2005 and January 2014 after a six-week trial.

Benjamin Davies, of Allanson Road, Manchester, was found guilty of money laundering but cleared of two counts of cheating the public revenue.

Melody Davies hugged her brother as jurors returned their verdicts after more than 18 hours of deliberation.

The court heard Sompan provides relief for women and children in poverty while the Kurbet Foundation focuses on the well-being of migrants.

David Hughes, prosecuting, said: "Behind this case is the tradition that we have in this country among people, no doubt yourselves included, of donating to charity."

"The Government supports charities by what is known as Gift Aid tax relief."

"They are getting money back off the Government when they are not entitled to it."

"Here we say what is being stated is 'we have had a donation, please give us the Gift Aid relief.'"

"This was just a complete sham."

"For all of those there has been no donation, no entitlement to gift aid, no entitlement to any money from the Government."

Fraudulent tax repayments were claimed on behalf of the Sompan Foundation worth £3,294,450.43 between March 2007 and January 2014 while the Kurbet Foundation received £1,743,748.20.

Money was sent to 15 countries including Ireland, the US and UAE from the Sompan Foundation, with almost half the funds being diverted to Hungary.

The Davies family owned a holiday home in Balástya, Hungary, where a significant part of the

money was sent.

John Davies claimed he bribed officials in order to further the cause of Sompan, which was set up to help women and children in poverty.

He explained that he ordered Viagra and Implanon – a birth control medication – from a company called Norco Pharmaceutical.

Asked why he ordered Viagra, he said: "The Sompan needs Viagra for the same reason it needs caviar. What it does is it stops the immigration authority coming around and arresting everybody."

"If you give them caviar and Viagra they will leave you alone."

Davies paid for a return flight for his daughter to New Zealand and helped her by arranging accommodation and by paying for her course and living costs.

A £5,500 payment to Melody Davies had actually been paid out from the Sompan Foundation.

There was also a payment of £10,800 for university funds that had been paid via credit card.

When asked if she knew where the money came from Melody Davies replied: "I thought my dad paid it into there."

Vullnetari had been a trustee of the Sompan foundation from November 2004 until January 2008 when Benjamin Davies became a trustee until he resigned in August 2012.

He carried out some of the transactions by 'hijacking' the

identity of Thomas Hamilton and had a fake passport.

The real Thomas Hamilton was a vice-principal at a school in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, and was unaware of the charities until he was contacted by investigators.

John Davies, of Mill Road, Esher, Surrey, and Vullnetari, of Charney Avenue, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, were found guilty of two counts of cheating the public revenue and one of money laundering.

Melody Davies, of Nettles Lane, Shrewsbury, was cleared of the same three charges.

The men will be sentenced on May 13.

Sanja Djeric Kane, director of Refugee Action Kingston, said: "It's scandalous. Unfortunately I think that people may lose faith and that most unfortunately this is not about charities who do such good work."

"He has hid behind the name of a charity."

"I'm worried that something like this will affect a charity like ours. It's terribly damaging that people like this manage to get away with misusing public money and give us a bad name. It's tragic really."

A Charity Commission spokesman said: "The use of a charity for fraud is a particularly despicable crime which can undermine the public's trust and confidence in charities."

£3.3m
Claimed on behalf
of Sompan

£1.7m
Claimed on behalf
of Kurbet

15
Countries where
cash was sent

Judgement: Kingston
Crown Court

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Surbiton Wildlife Group is taking a walk on the wildside with suburb's furry creatures and its feathered friends

Badger spotted heading out for a ramble in Surbiton by hidden night-vision camera

REPORTER
ELLIE CAMBRIDGE
ellie.cambridge@london.newsquest.co.uk



CAMERAS set up in woods behind Surbiton station captured a badger nosing around in two separate sightings in the past fortnight.

The Surbiton Wildlife Group used money awarded by Kingston Council to enhance the area near Oakhill, off Glenbuck Road, and decided to install four remote wildlife cameras.

A badger sighting was reported to the group the weekend previously, and a camera was then ready to capture the animal on the night of April 2.

Stephanie Clark, vice-chairman, said: "We caught the badger coming out of there so what we think is that there's a sett and they are using the forest to forage for food."

"It just highlights the importance

of these patches of green space.

"It's important that these spaces are protected and these spaces are preserved for animals' enjoyment as well as ours."

A camera was set up facing the sett and caught a badger, which Surbiton Wildlife Group is confident is the same badger as in the first set of footage, leaving the sett at 9.30pm on April 9, and returning to it hours later at about 5am the following morning.

The end of the footage released by the wildlife group also captured a jay gathering badger fur to use as nesting material.

Other animals captured by the cameras include hedgehogs, foxes, squirrels and wood mice.

The cameras were originally used to track hedgehogs in various gardens in Surbiton.

Surbiton Wildlife Group was set up in May 2015 by Tom Hooker. He said: "The group has just entered

its second year and we have lots planned.

"Aside from continuing to maintain and enhance Claremont Crescent Gardens we are also keen to get involved with other areas such as 'the wood' and also find ways to engage and educate local residents.

"Gardens form a massive percentage of green space so we can all make a big difference by doing

Infra-red: The badger was captured by Surbiton Wildlife Group's night-vision camera

small things in our gardens, such as creating hedgehog tunnels to allow them to roam."

Surbiton Wildlife Group were asked to manage the preservation of The Wood, near Oakhill, and put in the cameras to see what wildlife currently lives in the area.

A portion of the wooded area is fenced off to include the Richard Jefferies bird sanctuary.

Lime Tree Primary School is set to help the group install two hedgehog houses in the area on April 14.

Surbiton Wildlife Group has projects to revitalise Claremont Gardens and to make a count of the local wildlife all ongoing, among others. Clean-up and flower-planting operations attracted dozens of volunteers and it has grown to include about 200 members.



Captured: The group had four cameras



Out and about: The badger goes for a ramble



Back home: The animal heads back to bed



Snapped: The badger's sett in Surbiton

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If you are registered then you should have received a poll card over the Easter period.

If you are yet to receive one, you might not be registered.

To be eligible to vote on Thursday, May 5, you must be a London resident over the age of 18 and on the electoral register and must have registered to vote by Monday, April 18.

Voting in the London Mayoral and Assembly elections will affect decisions concerning transport, policing, housing, the environment and emergency planning within Kingston and the rest of the capital.

See gov.uk/register-to-vote or call 020 8547 5026 if you are not yet registered.

Video viewed 1.5m times shows enforcement officers trying to fine a man

Controversial 'litter police' comes under fire yet again

REPORTER

RACHAEL BURFORD

rachael.burford@london.newsquest.co.uk



KINGSTON'S controversial 'litter police' have come under fire again after a video of them attempting to fine a man for dropping a cigarette butt in the town centre went viral.

Kingston Council awarded a 'self-funding' contract in June last year to service provider NSL Limited, whose workers hand out on-the-spot fines for littering and dog fouling.

Figures obtained by the *Kingston Guardian* showed of the 1,605 fines issued since the scheme started, 1,507 were for dropping cigarette butts, 78 were handed out for spitting, 19 were for general and food waste, and just one was for dog fouling.

Samuel William's 'Confronting Plastic Authority' video has been viewed around 1.5 million times on Facebook. The video, posted earlier this month, shows Mr William confronting two



Confrontation: The argument was captured on video

litter enforcement officers as they stop a man who dropped a cigarette butt in Clarence Street.

He said: "These people parade themselves like they work for the council but they are a private company."

"What they fail to tell you is that you have the right to remain silent."

One of the officers is then filmed saying "you have no right to ask me for my ID" and "you do not have the right to remain silent."

The man then picks up the cigarette butt and puts it in the bin but the officers say they still have to fine him.

When he refuses, they follow him around the town centre while Mr William films and eventually the police intervene when the group reach Eden Walk.

Last June the officers were criticised for marching a man out of Banquet Records after he dropped a cigarette butt outside the shop.

Liberal Democrat councillor and Banquet Records

owner Jon Tolley condemned littering but added: "I've always had a problem with what the litter police are up to. It generates very little cash for the council, but quite a bit for the private firm that runs the service."

A council spokesman said: "We embarked on a campaign to clean up the borough, awarding NSL Ltd the contract to enforce fines for dropping litter and dog fouling on pavements and other public places."

"The funding of the scheme comes directly from the fines rather than from the council's budget."

An NSL spokesman said the service is delivered for the council, adding: "NSL Ltd is issuing penalty charge notices to offenders in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005."

Last year the council said cleaning up litter and dog mess cost it £2m per year.

PLAN AMENDED: Plans to rebuild Kingston town centre's shopping district and build 380 homes have been amended and resubmitted to Kingston Council. Developer British Land was due to present its plans to demolish the Eden Walk shopping centre and replace it with an 18,000 sq m retail complex last month, but pulled out of the development control committee meeting at the 11th hour. To view the amended plans visit kingston.gov.uk.

DRIVER BANNED: A drink-driver who lives in a private Coombe Hill road has been fined £3,000 and banned from the road for 28 months. Howe Chegne, 55, was caught on the A3 while nearly three times over the limit. Chegne, of Corkran House, Golf Club Drive - which, according to rightmove.co.uk, sold for £1.7 million in 2012 - was also ordered to pay £385 in fees after he admitted guilt at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court on Wednesday, March 30.

ASIAN VISIT: A Kingston University graduate travelled to Sri Lanka to work with people affected by the long-running civil war, which ended in 2009. Charlotte Rose, a 22-year-old psychology graduate, spent five weeks in South Asia putting into practice skills she developed during her degree working at psychiatric hospitals and therapeutic sessions.

YOUR SAY: A Kingston meeting will be held today, Thursday, from 6.30pm to 8pm in the Mayo Centre to discuss issues affecting the community.

Swan at sunset is caught on camera



STUNNER: A swan at sunset in Bushy Park

SUE Lindenberg took this stunning photo in Bushy Park. For the

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New report warns of flood risks

A GROUP of environmentalists has warned Kingston Council that the increasing number of developments and the destruction of natural landscapes in the borough are putting residents in danger of "devastating floods".

The Kingston Environment Centre and Kingston Environment Forum united to issue the warning after publishing a report into flood risks, which found "mismatches" with the council's development policy and prevention measures.

The report called on the council to hire a landscape architect to counteract urban development and criticised the felling of flood plain land near the Hogsmill River.

Marilyn Mason, chairman of the Kingston Environment Forum, said: "We have seen how devastating flooding can be elsewhere in the UK. We want to see Kingston adequately protected. Ex-

cess water must go somewhere, but preferably not into homes and businesses."

The Environment Agency said that the organisation would review the report and work with Kingston Council and the report's authors to discuss the borough's flood risk. A Kingston Council spokeswoman said: "Kingston's flood risk management strategy is up to date and has been made available on the council's website since approval in December 2015. Flood risk management is taken into account on all major planning applications, ensuring that developments meet and where possible improve on national, regional and local standards."

The warning comes after the Landscape Institute, a group of about 6,500 architects, urged a "transformative new approach" to developing on green belt land.

Mum-of-seven almost halves her body weight in two years

'I dropped the sweets and took up knitting'



Before and after: Dena Harrison at 22st, left, and now

REPORTER

RACHAEL BURFORD

rachael.burford@
london.newsquest.co.uk

A SURBITON mum of seven has lost almost half her body weight in less than two years after swapping chocolate bars and chips for knitting for her children.

Dena Harrison tipped the scales at almost 22 stone in February 2014 when she started to get pains and pins and needles in her arms.

It was then the 42-year-old full-time carer realised if she did not do something about her weight she would not be around to see her daughter and six sons, aged between two and 24, grow up.

She said: "I was just looking at my children and I realised I was killing myself. It was a sudden realisation and I just couldn't choose to do that."

"I was eating crisps and chocolate because I was bored. I knew I had to do something."

Mrs Harrison joined Surbiton Slimming World and lost a massive 9lbs in just her first week after she stopped gorging on crisps, chocolate and chips in the evening – and started knitting.

In just 14 months she was down to about 11st – but put on a bit of weight after a bereavement – and now weighs 11st 8lbs, which is less than a stone away from her target weight of 10st 11.5lbs.

She said: "I put on a little bit towards the end but now I'm back on track."

"I was eating the wrong foods and always saying it was because I didn't have any time to prepare meals, but I realise now I was just being lazy."

"I would have chips with

everything and all my food was ready meals and snacks."

"Now I make everything from scratch and I do not snack in the day – except for a Curly Wurly after the kids have gone to bed."

"When I started eating less I realised how much more energy I had and that spurred me on. Now I walk about six miles a day and the school runs have definitely helped get me in shape."

"My target is to lose exactly half my body weight."

Mrs Harrison's mum Geraldine Gellard joined Slimming World with her daughter and has lost five stone so far. Now husband Darren, 48, has just started as a member.

Mrs Harrison said: "My daughter Kiara, nine, comes to the Slimming World meetings with me."

"We are definitely healthier as a family."

Hospice in training for end of life care

PRINCESS Alice Hospice is working with 13 nursing homes in Kingston to train staff in planning for end of life care.

The Esher-based hospice, which marks 30 years of palliative care this year, hopes to arrange visits to talk with managers over the next two weeks.

Jane Berg, head of education at the hospice, said: "Advanced care planning enable staff to deliver high quality personalised care providing res-

idents with a better quality of life consistent with their needs and wishes. It can also improve collaboration and coordination of care and reduce crisis hospital admissions."

The project is funded by Kingston Clinical Commissioning Group.

Dr Naz Jivani, Kingston CCG chair and clinical lead for end of life care, said: "The importance of planning in advance for the end of life has been highlighted in a number of recent reports."

Now all dogs must be microchipped

HUNDREDS of thousands of dog owners risk never being reunited with missing pets and face a £500 fine if they do not microchip their dogs after a new law made the practice compulsory.

As of April 6, all dogs in England, Scotland and Wales are now legally required to have been chipped by the time they are eight weeks old.

Battersea Dogs and Cats Home said that just one in five stray dogs in the UK is prop-

erly microchipped.

Of 1,154 dogs scanned for its survey the other 80 per cent either had no microchip, were linked to inaccurate information or had out-of-date chips.

Claire Horton, Battersea's chief executive, said: "It can really help in re-uniting lost dogs with their owners."

"But there's a long way to go to make sure the nation's dog owners know they must get their dog chipped and keep their details up to date."

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The men landed their catch next to a "no fishing" sign

Men seen acting fishy

THIS fishy picture shows two men ignoring a "no fishing" sign in Kingston town centre.

The men were seen near Kingston market, with the Clattern Bridge in the background.

Tom Leach took the picture of the fresh catch last month, and it is not known whether the fish was released back into the Hogsmill River.

In October last year poachers laid an illegal net in the Thames, catching about 100 fish.

Warwick Salzer, who has lived and worked on the river for the past 20 years, found the 175ft net fixed by Teddington Lock.

The Environment Agency said it would increase patrols to prevent illegal trapping.

Lulu was found decapitated outside her home in KT2 'Cat murderer' said to have hit Kingston

REPORTER

RACHAEL BURFORD

rachael.burford@london.newsquest.co.uk



A SERIAL cat killer is feared to have struck in Kingston.

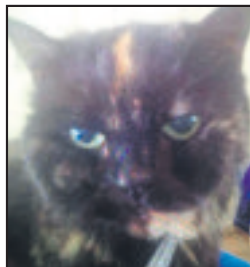
Lulu was found decapitated outside her home in the KT2 area of Kingston near Ham at about 7am last Saturday morning.

The 18-year-old pet is believed by some to be the latest victim of the Croydon cat killer, also known as the M25 cat killer, who is alleged to have murdered and beheaded cats across the capital.

The sick killer is thought to run cats over in a vehicle before removing their tails and heads and leaving them 'placed' outside their homes.

Boudicca Rising, from South Norwood Animal Rescue and Liberty (SNARL), went to pick up Lulu's body on Sunday. The group is working with police and the RSPCA to forensically test the bodies.

She said: "This looks like another victim. There are certain markers that we look for, such as positioning of the



Victim? Lulu the cat

body and the kind of injuries. Every one was ticked with poor Lulu.

"I think everything is pointing to this being one person. Whoever is doing this is clearly aware of CCTV and most of the victims are in residential areas."

An RSPCA expert has examined 19 bodies so far and confirmed the deaths appear to be linked.

But it is thought the killer has targeted many more pets with similar killings dating back as far as 2008.

Ms Rising added that SNARL was hearing of

"about two cases a week" since the cat killer cases starting being publicised.

Lulu's owners said in a statement: "She was much loved and a member of our family. We are all very upset at what happened."

An RSPCA spokeswoman said: "To date 19 bodies examined by the experts have been confirmed as being linked. These bodies were found in areas all over London."

"We take all reports of animal cruelty very seriously. A dedicated team is continuing to work closely with the police and looking into all evidence given to us to see if there is deliberate cruelty involved."

"We are particularly keen to be called if and when a cat is found dead in suspicious circumstances."

Animal rights campaign group PETA is offering a £5,000 reward for information leading to the capture of the killer.

Anyone with information should call the RSPCA on 0300 123 8018 or DS Andy Collin from the Metropolitan Police on 0208 6490216.

BEAT THIEVES: Kingston police are running a 'beat the burglar' event in New Malden. The April 16 talk will focus on why burglary happens and the changes you can make to reduce the chances of being burgled. Chief Inspector Gary Taylor will be leading the interactive one-hour session from 10am in New Malden Methodist Church. Email Alison.mcwhinnie@outlook.com to confirm your attendance.

POWER CUT: A Surbiton power cut in Surbiton affected 450 households following a fault in an underground electricity cable last Monday. UK Power Networks restored power by about 5pm. Affected postcodes included KT6 4 and KT6 5. The network said: "An underground electricity cable has faulted on our high voltage network, causing an area-wide power cut."

PLAY MONEY: People interested in finding out more about raising money for playground equipment at the Alexandra Recreation Ground in Surbiton can attend a meeting on April 27. The venue will be confirmed on the Friends of Alexandra Playground Facebook group.

FREE TICKETS: Kingston's libraries are giving away free tickets to see Shakespeare's classic play King John at the Rose Theatre if they can tweet one of the famous playwright's plot's in 140 characters. Residents are being invited to try and tweet the storyline to any of Shakespeare's 37 stage productions using the hashtag #biddybard. The deadline for entries is Saturday, April 23.

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Home of Compassion is a Caring Homes care home. Founded by mother and son Helena and Paul Jeffery, Caring Homes has 20 years' experience delivering high quality award-winning care across the UK.

To find out more, visit homeofcompassion.co.uk. Email homeofcompassion@carinhomes.org or call 0808 223 5406 to register your place at the open weekend event, 23rd and 24th April 2016.

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Woman intent on ending 12-year-long search for her father **Bride-to-be desperate to find estranged dad**

REPORTER
JON MITCHELL
jonathan.mitchell@
london.newsquest.co.uk



A BRIDE-TO-BE is hoping to end a 12-year search for her father in New Malden before her wedding day.

Ruth Sandalls, 29, who lives in Sussex, is due to get married to her fiancé Phil, 33, in her home town on April 29 next year and has saved a seat for her estranged father.

For the past 12 years she has been writing letters to possible friends and neighbours and posting on social media, but has yet to find her father as she knows nothing other than his name – Vincent Brown – and that he has lived in New Malden.

She said: "Obviously I don't want him to walk me down the aisle or anything like that. I just need some answers.

"The past is the past, but I would like to know if I've got any other siblings. Even if he wants nothing to do with me, it would just be nice to have closure. I've got two spare seats and they're saved for that reason."



Quest: Ruth Sandalls, with fiancé Phil and sons Billy and Charlie

Miss Sandalls' only encounter with her father came when she was 10 years old, when he drove to her mother's house in Sussex.

Miss Sandalls added: "I don't remember what he looked like.

"When I was about 16 my mother finally came out with his name and things like that. I don't know what happened between him and my mum. It's none of my business really. I don't have

a lot of information and that's why I'm finding it so hard to find him."

Miss Sandalls has two children from a previous relationship, Billy, 10 and Charlie, five, who she says have motivated her to finally bring closure to her search.

She added: "Once I had children I realised – how can you not be in someone's life?"

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Appeal: Police have released this image

Fake £50s CCTV appeal

SCAMMERS have used fake £50 Scottish notes to buy small items and make a cash profit when shop assistants give them change.

Kingston police said the scam ran in the town centre

during January and February. Officers have released an image of a woman they would like to speak to.

Anyone with information should contact 101 and quote reference 04011/55/16.

MP calling on government to ensure there are no loopholes in new law

Campaign after living wage 'leaves workers worse off'

REPORTER

PIPPA ALLEN-KINROSS

pippa.allen@
london.newsquest.co.uk



MP Siobhain McDonagh has urged the Government to ensure workers do not lose out after B&Q announced it would cut staff benefits to pay the national living wage.

The living wage, which came into effect on April 1, is a flagship policy for chancellor George Osborne that says all workers over 25 must be paid at least £7.20 an hour.

But some bigger companies, such as B&Q, have been accused of reducing pay elsewhere in order to fund it.

Mitcham and Morden MP Ms McDonagh has filed an Early Day Motion calling on Mr Osborne to ensure that workers' pay and jobs are protected. She said a friend who works at B&Q told her they would be £2,600 a year worse off on the living wage.

B&Q has said it will pay staff at least £7.66 an hour. To do that it will cut time-and-a-half pay for working



Terms: Siobhain McDonagh has called for action

on a Sunday, reduce bank holiday double-time to time-and-a-half, cut down on extra pay for workers who live in London, and remove summer and winter bonuses that equate to six per cent of employees' annual salary. But the company insisted its reward package "remains one of the best in retail".

Ms McDonagh said: "It seems incredibly unfair. A lot of people are being affected in this way. Lots of companies are doing the same thing. For these people who work hard, and who don't ask for anything but to work hard and try and earn a living, we are hoping to get them a decent wage. If there are loopholes, I want the Government to close them."

A petition started on change.org by an anonymous B&Q employee has so far gathered almost 135,000 signatures.

A B&Q spokesman said it will retain a number of benefits including performance bonuses, a pension with a 14 per cent employer con-

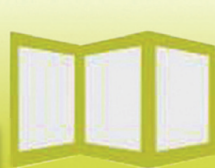
tribution and a ShareSave scheme, and that the company will gather feedback on the decision before April 1, 2017.

She said: "This has been a difficult decision and our aim has always been to reward all of our people fairly so employees doing the same job receive the same pay."

"For a long time, some had been paid different allowances and that couldn't continue. No one's base pay is being reduced at all, and we are paying compensation so no one's bonus or benefits will be reduced in the first 12 months."

"We are committed to being an employer of choice, to providing colleagues with lots of opportunities to grow their careers, to rewarding colleagues when things are going well and to offering a consistent, fair and competitive salary on all levels. This year, we will be paying more than we did last year."

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Kingston's LGBT community is devastated by closure news

'Last gay bar in south west London' to close

REPORTER
BEN WEICH
ben.weich@london.newsquest.co.uk



Closing down: The much-loved Richmond Arms

KINGSTON'S lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community is in mourning after the 'last gay bar in south-west London' announced it will close in three weeks' time.

Thirty-year stalwart The Richmond Arms, in Princes Street, will close its doors on Saturday, April 23, after the company which owns it went into administration.

Last Friday staff announced the closure on Facebook, describing the pub as 'somewhere different and safe' for the LGBT community. They said: "This place is so close to many of us, we have laughed and cried here together for over 30 years. We have all put our hearts and souls into here on more than one occasion and made it somewhere different and safe to come that will never be forgotten."

The Richmond Arms was known as the last gay bar in south west London, with the nearest south of the river locat-

ed in Clapham High Street.

Manager David Langstaff, who lives above the pub, said the closure jeopardises Richmond's reputation as LGBT-friendly.

Mr Langstaff, 29, said: "At one point there were three gay pubs in Richmond and now there won't be any. It's been such a special place for all of us - lots of people have met partners here.

Everyone knows everyone and it's like a family."

There are currently more than 140 comments on the post as regulars offered tributes to the pub.

Sam Duckett wrote: "This is heartbreaking! Thank you to everyone at the Richmond Arms that accepted me and helped me become who I am today. My hearts go out to all of you, especially the owners and staff!"

Another user wrote: "This place was a joy to work in, the staff and the sense of community among the regulars was cohesion on all levels. To all that have been a part of this special place, much love on this sad day."

The Kingston LGBT Forum is holding a social event at the pub on its last opening day.

A statement in the group's April newsletter read: "Our closest LGBT venue is to close permanently at the end of the month. The Kingston LGBT Forum is obviously deeply shocked by this announcement and will do everything in our power, along with our partners in the Richmond LGBT Forum, to attempt to keep the venue open."

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By Sam Potter

IF YOU suffer from low back pain and sciatica, you are one of over 20 million adults in the UK with this often crippling spinal condition.

Shooting, stabbing and burning pains from the low back, sometimes with additional pain through the buttocks and down the legs are all symptoms of a pinched nerve often called "sciatica".

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Patient Jeff P. from London says, "My back pain was unbearable but the worst thing was the searing burning pain I felt in my buttock and leg.

I couldn't work or do anything useful and the drugs my GP prescribed hardly did anything.

My wife insisted I respond to one of these ads, I thought it would be a total waste of time, but I'm so glad she kept on at me.

Thank god I called your number, I'm 95% better in just a couple of weeks."

Your invitation for a comprehensive consultation and examination to pinpoint the cause of your low back pain and sciatica...

The Kingston Guardian has teamed up with the spine therapy specialists at the Halsa clinic to help readers find relief from their persistent back and sciatic pain.

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thorough diagnostic examination with the most advanced technology in the world and a comprehensive easy to understand report on your state of health is call your local Halsa clinic.

Mention this article (CODE: Hals3) and the team will happily reduce their usual consultation fee of £110 to just £30. But hurry, due to obvious reasons – this is a time limited offer – with only 100 reader consultations available at this exclusively discounted rate.

My advice, don't suffer a moment longer...

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ONLINE OPINION

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Decapitated cat in Kingston believed to be latest victim of 'M25 cat killer'

My heart goes out to Lulu's family. Such a dear little face
 and I understand much loved by everyone she used to
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JULIE HILL

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Buttons pushed

WHY do pedestrians push the wait button at a crossing without checking for a vehicle, so causing traffic to halt unnecessarily, particularly at peak times?

NAME AND ADDRESS WITH-
HELD

Boris boilers

KEEPING your home warm in cold weather is not cheap, especially when you have an old, inefficient boiler, which is why at City Hall we're offering Londoners a fantastic deal by giving them £400 towards the cost of a new boiler.

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BORIS JOHNSON
Mayor of London

Build a bridge

YOUR pollution item (Kingston Guardian, March 31) should be read with David Cooper's letter (same date) including that a £170 million Tolworth 'tunnel' would not help.

The report picture is of Tolworth underpass, probably off-peak. Even then less traffic shows on the A3 itself (all that would be tunnelled) than on the roundabout, which, both the A240 and slip roads, causes much more pollution.

It might be better and much more cheaply achieved by a footbridge from the old gateway off the ex-Tesco site to Princes Avenue.

MICHAEL HOPE
Tolworth

A disgrace

SO, we have a council tax increase and a reduction in services. The service reduction in street cleaning has been obvious well before this increase. Does anyone in the civic offices ever look out of their window or along the paths on their way to work?

The small bank of the Hogsmill adjacent to the County Court bike park is a disgrace, as is the flower bed on St James Road just before the bridge over the Hogsmill before said bike park. The shrubbery could look great if it weren't swamped in rubbish.

NAME AND ADDRESS SUP-
PLIED

Cuts fears

THE plan to offer tailored online therapy to those caring for a loved one with dementia is good news (Your say, April 1).

Unpaid carers suffer great stress, isolation, ill health and, often, financial hardship, while saving taxpayers tens of billions of pounds. Their lot is about to get harder, with cuts in provision for the elderly, disabled and sick. Have we got our priorities right?

VERA LUSTIG
Grange Court, Walton

No-brainer

I ATTENDED a transport planning meeting at Tolworth Girls' School last week and asked the following question: How is it that the largest area of employment both in area and numbers working there, has a railway running slap bang through the middle of it but no station?

I am, of course, referring to Cox Lane industrial estate. Surely it is not beyond the wit of transport planners to build a station next to the railway bridge? Think of how much it could relieve the traffic congestion. It's a no-brainer.

IAN MOLE
Tolworth



Jenny Tarbutt sent in this photo of a man blowing bubbles in Kingston's Market Place. To see your photo in Borough View email it, along with details of where you took it, to rachael.burford@london.newsquest.co.uk

Prescription dismay

ON April 1 prescription charges in England increased by 20p from £8.20 to £8.40.

A 20p increase may not seem much but the reality is that people with asthma tell us they've had to choose between paying for their prescriptions and paying for food, fuel and household bills.

Any barrier to life-saving medication has the potential to

put the lives of millions people with asthma at risk, and people with asthma shouldn't be forced to pay for the prescriptions they need.

We are continuing with our campaign to put an end to prescription charges for everyone with a long-term condition as part of the prescription charges coalition.

Until prescription charges

are ended, we want the Government to raise awareness of schemes such as the prescription prepayment certificates.

These are effectively prescription 'season tickets' which save money for patients who are regularly prescribed a number of prescription items.

Further information can be found at asthma.org.uk.

Did rising oestrogen levels in our water make us asexual?

Editor Andrew Parkes has a number of thoughts every week, here are just five of them

5 THOUGHTS OF THE WEEK...

1. Let's be straight. I'm not out to question anyone's sexuality. Thankfully we now live in a far more accepting society and people can hopefully feel comfortable about their sexuality. But I think it's interesting that we have an increasing number of asexual people. Years ago I read an article claiming rising levels of oestrogen in our water supply (from synthetic hormones in contraceptive pills) would mean a 'levelling' out of the sexes, ie. society would become less male and less female. I wonder if that's now happening?

2. I have no issue with stopping at

pedestrian crossings. Someone presses the button, the cars stop and people cross safely. But inconsiderate dipsticks see the road is clear and take the opportunity to dash across. I have no problem with this; it makes perfect common sense. But they still press the button – a maddening waste of time for drivers.

3. Hospitalization – I'm heartily sick of it. Not, you understand, the buildings that make people better, but rather Americanisations. I was told detectives were investigating a

homicide. We don't have homicides, we have good old-fashioned murders. I feel sorry for the poor Yank who joined our newsroom. We're doing all we can to educate him to use proper English and yet all around him are the type of words he's trying to leave behind.

4. Four-door Minis – complete nonsense. What's the point? In a world obsessed by brands and companies offering customers as much choice as possible I can understand why BMW would build every conceivable model. But why would you buy one? The clue's in



the name: it's a Mini! If you want a bigger, four-door version get yourself a different car. Don't waste money on a poor adaptation.

5. Finally, catching up on a previous thought about adult colouring books – people with too much time on their hands if you ask me. But now the world's biggest wooden pencil manufacturer has announced a global shortage.

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THIS WEEK'S REASONS TO GO OUT

CLUB – **Retro Sunday at Tooting Tram and Social, from 5pm to midnight.** Step back in time with a vinyl takeover and retro games including ping pong, futsal and pinball. Entry is free. Over 18s only. Go to tootingtramandsocial.co.uk

FAMILY – **The Emperor's New Clothes at Polka Theatre, Wimbledon, on Saturday and Sunday.** Puppeteer Martin Bridle rummages through the washing basket to create a new take on Hans Christian Andersen's tale featuring a washing machine, a clothes line, puppets and song. Tickets cost £12

for adults and children and £9 concessions. Go to polkatheatre.com

THEATRE – **Tell Me on a Sunday at New Wimbledon Theatre on Monday (April 18).** Winner of BBC talent show I'd Do Anything, Jodie Prenger, stars in Andrew Lloyd Webber and Don Black's musical about the romantic misadventures of an English girl in New York in the 1980s. Tickets from £27.40. Go to atgtickets.com/Wimbledon

COMEDY – **The Mayor of Croydon's Charity Comedy Night at Fairfield Halls on Sunday.** Big name comedians Kevin Day,

Reginald D Hunter, Jon Richardson, Mark Steel, Seann Walsh and special guests will all perform in aid of the Mayor's dedicated charities, CAYSH and Mind in Croydon. Tickets cost £30. Go to Fairfield.co.uk

FILM – **Criminal (15), out Friday.** Kevin Costner is a dangerous and unpredictable convict who has the memories and skills of a deceased CIA agent implanted into his brain in this star-studded blockbuster that

was filmed in locations around Croydon and Kingston. Also starring Wonder Woman Gal Gadot,



CRIMINAL

What's on

BEN'S GOT THE BUZZ

Fairfield Halls has always been an important venue for X Factor winner Ben Haenow who talks to JIM PALMER ahead of his gig there next week.

X Factor winner Ben Haenow is heading home for a gig at a venue where childhood memories were made.

The former van driver from Shirley grew up with visits to Fairfield Halls and now he is taking to the stage there himself on April 19.

He told us: "I'm absolutely buzzing for it. Obviously I'm looking forward to the tour in general but to get to do a gig in my hometown and a venue that I have been to on-and-off for years seeing pantomimes and famous bands is huge."

He added: "I saw Sooty and Sweep there years back. We used to go every year so it holds a big place in my heart."

Ben, who won ITV's The X Factor in 2014, will be one of the final performers at Fairfield before it closes in July for a two-year, £12million redevelopment.

He said: "It will be gutting to lose it for a while but to get it revamped and back to its former glory is the best way to do it."

Anyone who watched

Ben on the X Factor will have an idea of what to expect from his live show. Even on a programme that manufactures pop stars, his passion for rock and performance skills, honed through playing years of smaller gigs, shined through.

He said: "This last year has been different. It's what we used to do but on a bigger scale."

"I have a love for rock music. I'm getting a band together and we want to make it a bit like an old school rock show, lots of noise."

Though Ben's debut single – a cover of OneRepublic's Something I Need – shot straight in at number one off the back of his X Factor success, he found himself parting ways with Simon Cowell's record label a little over a year later after his self-titled album charted at number 10 and Kelly Clarkson duet Second Hand Heart only reached 21.

He said: "We were kind of happy to come to the

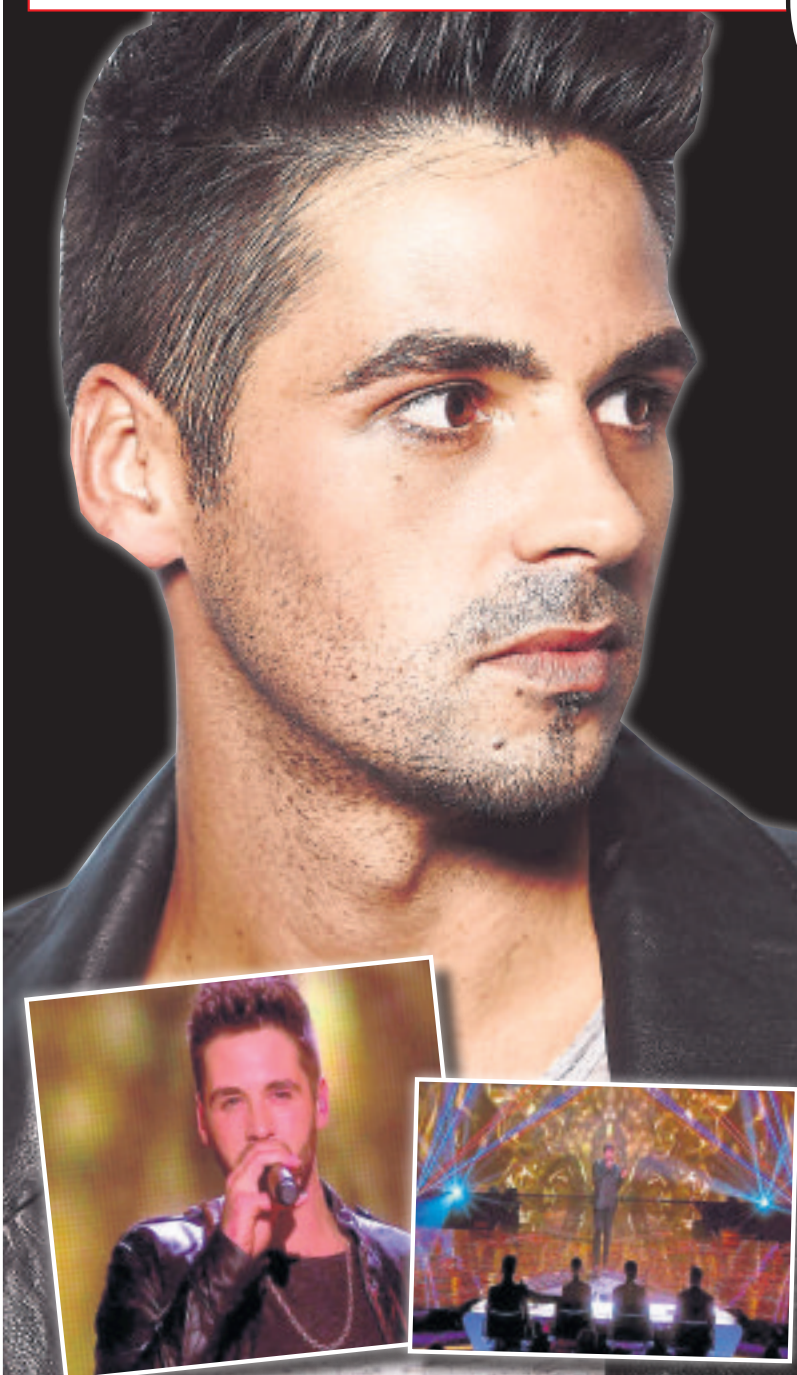
arrangement to part ways and I think that with the experience of that year and everyone I have met and stuff, it has really stood me in good stead to go out and carry on in this career and make my next album."

While some former winners have shown bitterness towards the show, Ben – who is writing new material with his brother – is grateful for the opportunities it has given him. He said: "It gave me an amazing platform and I can't thank the guys enough for everything that happened."

"It was the most amazing experience of my life – getting to share the stage with people like Ed Sheeran and Queen. It just doesn't happen to normal people."

"Getting to share the stage with your heroes is something I never, ever thought I would be able to do so I thank the X Factor for that."

Ben Haenow plays Fairfield Halls on April 19. Tickets cost £23.50 or £65 for a meet and greet. Go to Fairfield.co.uk



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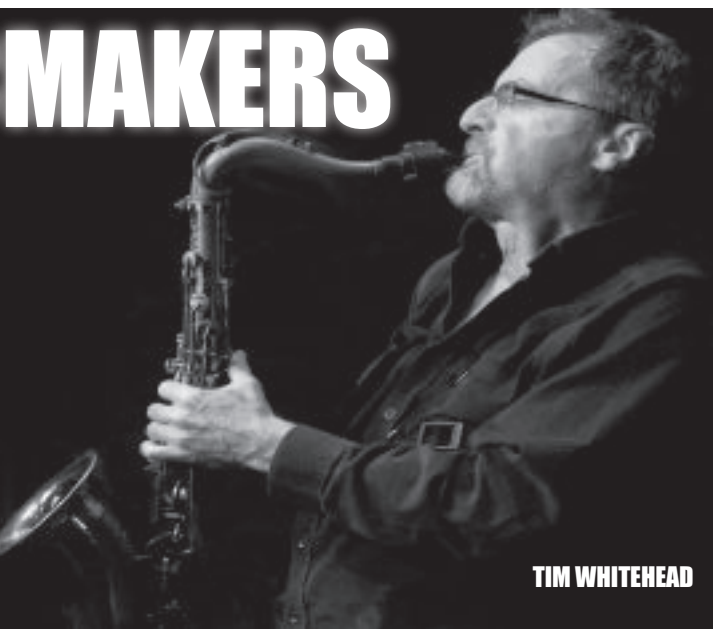
The unexpected is the only thing you can expect at a new music night launching in Kingston this month.

The Ram Jam Club's Sweet Thursday promises a programme of grass root gigs that emphasises the heart of jazz and improvisation.

The event will be presented by jazz star, Tim Whitehead, who will be drawing on over 30 years in the industry, to host an evening that aims to cross genre boundaries and create new ideas in a relaxed atmosphere.

He will call on international London-based artists and young local talent to perform a programme mixing jazz with beatboxing, comedy and more. Opening night will see Tim Whitehead's Personal Standards Quartet meet the 2015 London beat box champion, ABH, aka Alex Hackett.

The event begins on April 21 at 7.30pm, with a £15 entrance. Visit sweetthursday.club



TIM WHITEHEAD

REVIEW: LONDON HOUSE



The white table cloths are gone, there's a new head chef in the kitchen and its sommelier has left for pastures new, **writes Chris Caulfield.**

Does this mean the Gordon Ramsay-owned outpost London House can still deliver the goods when it comes to being the sort of local restaurant Battersea Square deserves or is it a case of one change too many?

A watercress infused gin (£9.50) got the ball rolling. The menu, now designed by Ramsay look-a-like George Lyon is simpler than before.

We had a pigs head croquette (£8) that was light and crispy with a wallop of deep flavoured pork. Also rewarding the palette, was a Venison scotch egg (£4.50).

Braised beef (£20) had been cooked so slowly it achieves that wonderful texture where the meat breaks down to its fibres.

The red-wine reduction adding, as all sauces should, to its deep flavour. A hit and the dish of the day.

The grilled lemon sole would have been a star as well if it was judged purely on looks and taste. Roasted on the bone and served with brown butter, shrimp and samphire, it had all the ingredients for success but eating it was a very serious endeavour.

The bones on the edges could have been removed because they got into almost every mouthful.

Finally came pear tart, mascarpone (£8). Ramsay's tarte tatin at his three-star flagship is legendary so the chance to eat one of his stable's fruit pies was not to be passed.

While it may not bump the apple pud from the menu of Restaurant Gordon Ramsay, it certainly ended things on a high.



TRIBUTE TO STEWART

Tribute act Paul Metcalfe is a man of many faces and he'll be bringing all of his experience with him when he comes sailing back into his hometown with the Rod Stewart show Some Guys Have All the Luck.

Paul's show celebrates the singer's career from street busker to international superstar with hits like Maggie May, Baby Jane and Do Ya Think I'm Sexy, ballads like Sailing and

Tonight's the Night, Faces favourites such as Stay With Me and Twistin the Night Away and his acclaimed Matown covers.

Paul was born in Epsom hospital and grew up near the town and, having performed all around the world, returns to Epsom Playhouse on Wednesday, April 20.

Go to epsomplayhouse.co.uk for tickets details.

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British Summer Time at Hyde Park, From July 2 to 10 (announced so far): Acts include Massive Attack, Florence and the Machine, Kendrick Lamar, Carole King, Mumford and Sons, Stevie Wonder and Take That. Go to bst-hydepark.com.

Greenwich Music Time, Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich, from July 6 to 10: Held in the majestic surroundings of maritime Greenwich, this year's performers are Joe Bonamassa, Seal, 2Cellos, 10cc, Roxette and Jamie Cullum. Go to greenwichmusictime.co.uk.

Wireless, Finsbury Park from July 8 to 10: Wireless always has a bit of an urban edge and this year features Boy Better Know, Kygo, Jess Glynne, Krept and Konan on the bill alongside Calvin Harris and The 1975. Go to wirelessfestival.co.uk.

Lovebox, Victoria Park on July 15 and 16: Now a fixture on the summer festival schedule, Lovebox has a predictably strong line-up including Major Lazer, LCD Soundsystem, Jack Garratt, Stormzy, Diplo and Kano. Go to loveboxfestival.com for more information.

Hampton Pool Summer Picnic Concerts, July 15 to 30: There's a retro feel to the pool's summer picnic concerts this year with acts including Paul Young, Shakatak, ABC, The Selecter, Nik Kershaw and Ruby Turner. More details at hamp-tonpool.co.uk.

Citadel, Victoria Park on July 17: Following on from Lovebox, on the same site, Citadel celebrates music, food and thea-



BIFFY CLYRO



SIGUR ROS



DIZZEE RASCAL



RUDIMENTAL

Long summer days at a festival are the stuff memories are made of. Here's our guide to some of London, Kent and Surrey's biggest music festivals and gigs in 2016...

PARTYTIME



JESS GLYNNE

tre with headlining artists Sigur Ros, Caribou and Lianne La Havas. Go to citadelfestival.com.

Kew the Music, Kew Gardens, from July 12 to 17: The botanic gardens' annual series of shows this year features Simply Red, Will Young, Abba tribute Bjorn Again, Jools Holland, The Corrs and Gipsy Kings. Go to kewthemusic.org.

LeeFest presents The Neverland, A secret location in Kent, from July 28 to 31: Famed for giving big stars a break, LeeFest – which started

off in Lee Denny's back garden in Beckenham in 2006 – has hosted the likes of Bastille, Jack Garrett and London Grammar before they were famous. This year it has moved to a bigger, mysterious location and should be 'like Disneyland for adults'. The headline act is Lianne La Havas. Earlybird weekend tickets cost £93.50. Go to leefest.org.

Forgotten Fields, Eridge Park near Tunbridge Wells from August 5 to 7: Forgotten Fields returns with a bill that includes Suede, Kodamine, Dizzee

Rascal, Kelis, Maximo Park, the Sugar Hill Gang, Band of Skulls and Newton Faulkner. Weekend tickets £113. Go to ticketline.co.uk.

Caught by the River Thames, Fulham Palace on August 6 and 7: A new music, arts and nature festival which blends bands, brewers and artists. Low and Super Furry Animals headline a bill which includes Chris Packham in conversation with Lauren Laverne, Beth Orton and Kate Tempest. Tickets £55 day or £99 weekend. Go to caughtbytheriverthames.com.

Reading Festival, August 26 to 28: Just a short drive away, Reading is again serving up some huge names – Biffy Clyro, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Disclosure, Fall Out Boy, The 1975 and Foals among them. Weekend tickets cost £213 and day tickets cost £66.50. Go to readingfestival.com.

South West Four, Clapham Common on August 27 and 28: London's premier dance and electronic music festival has another stellar line-up including

Nero, Rudimental, Dizzee Rascal and Chemical Brothers. Tickets from £59.50. For more details visit southwestfour.com.

OnBlackheath, Blackheath on September 10 and 11: The food and music festival – sponsored by John Lewis – includes live music, family entertainment and cooking demos. Music comes from the likes of Primal Scream, Hot Chip and Roisin Murphy on the Saturday and Belle and Sebastian, James and Squeeze on the Sunday. Go to onblackheath.com.

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Public Notices

COLIN WILLIAM ARTER

(Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 22 Riverhill Estate, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 7QB, who died on 20/02/2016, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 22/06/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Lewis & Dick, 443 Kingston Road, Ewell, Surrey KT19 0DG.
Ref: JPA/Arter0101596-003

LESLIE FREDERICK DEETH (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 56 Southwood Drive Tolworth, Surbiton Surrey KT5 9PH, who died on 29/12/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 24/06/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
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(Ref: JYA/3752951P/Deeth)

KATHLEEN ELLEN CRIPPS (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of The White House Nursing Home 274 Malden Road New Malden Surrey KT3 6AR, who died on 26/01/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 24/06/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
RUSSELL-COOKE LLP
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Surrey KT1 1QN

RUTH DIANE TRAPNELL (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 56 Hobell Walk Surbiton KT5 8SZ, who died on 14/03/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 17/06/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
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JOSZEF KOSMA (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 21 Charles Sumner House 56 Hobell Walk Surbiton KT5 8SZ, who died on 14/03/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 17/06/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
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KAMALALOGINIDEVI PARARAJASINGAM (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 43 Selbourne Avenue, Surbiton Surrey KT6 7NR, who died on 18/11/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 17/06/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
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Deaths

Susan Barnett

Dearly loved mum, devoted nanny, sister and friend passed away peacefully on 5th April 2016.

Loved by so many she will be sadly missed. Funeral 10am, 20th April 2016, Randalls Park, Leatherhead. In celebration of this wonderful woman please wear colour.

Obituary

DAVE MARTIN

After a courageous battle with cancer, Dave sadly passed away on 25th March 2016 aged 58. The funeral service to be held on Monday 18th April at Christchurch, Epsom at 11.30am, and afterwards on to Epsom Cemetery. Family flowers only, donations if wished to Princess Alice Hospice. The family would like you to join them at the Queens Stand, Epsom Downs after the service.

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Play-off hopes hang in the balance

KINGSTONIAN'S hopes of making the Ryman Premier Division play-offs hang in the balance after dropping points against sides facing relegation.

Saturday's 0-0 draw at Brentwood was followed by a 2-1 home defeat to Farn-

borough – featuring a Dan Bennett strike, *right*.

Ks have three games remaining, starting on Sunday at home to Staines Town, and they are three points off the play-offs.

More at kingstonguardian.co.uk/sport.



Goal: Sekou Kaba scored in the 3-0 win at the Swans

Casuals look to lady luck

CORINTHIAN Casuals boss James Bracken still believes they will make the play-offs, but he has admitted their fate is out of their hands, *writes Stuart Tree*.

Bracken also suggested that clubs who have little to play for this season have been rolling over against teams fighting for the top spots – much to his displeasure.

Saturday's 3-0 win at Walton & Hersham, thanks to goals from Shaun Okojie, Sekou Kaba and James Cottee, lifted the Casuals to within one point off the Ryman Division One South play-offs.

It was also their fifth consecutive win and fourth clean sheet in a row ahead of the season's penultimate clash at Walton Casuals this weekend.

Casuals sit on 79 points, and last season 81 points was good enough to make the play-offs and the season before, just 78 points.

However, this time round Faversham Town (80 points), Hastings (80 points) and Casuals are vying for the final place.

Bracken said: "We'd be extremely unlucky if we were to get 85 points and not make the play-offs."

"We still believe. We've won five in a row with four clean sheets and two games left. If we achieve the seven wins, but don't get into the play-offs, then clearly it's still not been good enough."

"But it'd be very unlucky not to be good enough."

He added: "You couldn't foresee that in the position we're in, if we won all seven, we wouldn't make it."

"We're reliant on other results and when you look at how they went on Saturday – a 7-0 and a 5-1 – teams are obviously underperforming at this stage of the season that shouldn't be."

HOCKEY: Unbeaten Surbiton find themselves in rivals Holcombe's sights

They all want to beat us

REPORTER
TIM ASHTON

tim.ashton@
london.newsquest.co.uk

SURBITON ladies may have finished as unbeaten table-toppers, but skipper Sarah Haycroft knows the defence of their title at this weekend's finals is not a certainty.

Haycroft and co have won back to back WHL Premier Division titles, and they face Holcombe at Lee Valley on Saturday as they look for a third crown.

In the two sides' previous meetings this season, Surbiton have run out comfortable winners on the back of 5-0 and 4-0 triumph.

However, Haycroft knows that Holcombe will have all their internationals back and hence present a much different proposition.

In addition, Surbiton are unbeaten in 40 league and play-off games, and every rival wants to be the team to end it.

She said: "Teams like Holcombe, who have eight internationals, struggle during the season, but they can turn it on in a one-off game, and when that one-off game could end our unbeaten run there is going to be an added incentive for them."



Key (left to right): Sarah Haycroft, Giselle Ansley, Hollie Webb and Georgie Twigg will all feature this weekend when Surbiton go for a third consecutive Premier Division title Picture: *Ady Kenny*

"There is a lot of banter about the unbeaten run when we meet up with the GB girls at Bisham Abbey for training."

"Birmingham were unbeaten until they played us in the second half of the season, so there was a lot of banter from them, and all the other girls jumping in and picking sides."

"When Holcombe got fourth, I got a text from [goalkeeper] Maddie Hinch saying 'Game on'."

Surbiton's first title came

after finishing fourth and then surprising everyone at the play-offs – and they won their second after finishing top and avoiding an upset.

So Haycroft knows how to win as an underdog and as the favourite, and now she and her team-mates have to repeat the latter.

She said: "It is cruel that the team that finishes top can get nothing, but then the teams finishing fourth don't worry about that."

"We're very aware that everyone wants to take our

title, we've been on both sides of the coin."

She added: "We are the team that everyone wants to beat and we're determined not to let that happen."

Should Surbiton get past Holcombe, they will face either Canterbury or the University of Birmingham in Sunday's final.

Meanwhile, the men face Reading on Saturday in the MHL Premier Division play-offs – for a full preview go to kingstonguardian.co.uk/sport.

SPORTSbrief



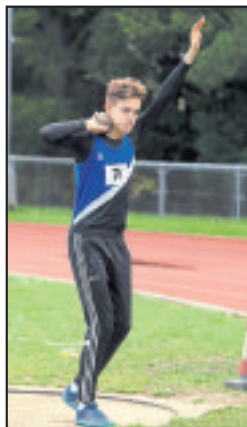
MEDALS: A Kingston student returned from the Special Olympics GB National Skiing Competition with three silver medals. Karen Oosthuizen, from Kingston College, came second out of a total of 80 competitors from the UK. The events were held at the French ski resort, Serre Chevalier, where the races help develop fitness and confidence in the competitors. The Special Olympics is the biggest sports organisation for athletes with learning disabilities. She said: "Although I enjoyed it, it was terrifying at times, but I was very happy that I got three silver medals. I am very proud, and I am now waiting to hear if I have been chosen for Great Britain at the World Games."

ATHLETICS: Kingston & Polytechnic Harriers return to Southern Athletics League Division Two action at Andover on Saturday. The club's men and women – captained this season by Gareth Cook and Pippa Wingate, respectively – take on athletes from Havant, Newbury and Bracknell athletics clubs. Kingston won the Division Three South West title last summer by three points ahead of second-placed North Devon AC.

FOOTBALL: Kingstonian ladies maintained their 100 per cent record in the Premier Division of the Surrey County Women & Girls League thanks to a 2-0 win at Dorking Wanderers on Sunday. Ks had already wrapped up the title before goals from Hanna Robson and Abi Elliott saw off Dorking. Ks, who have three league games left, face Egham Town in the Surrey League Challenge Cup final this weekend.

HOCKEY: Surbiton tasted double success at Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre when both the boys' and girls' teams were crowned National U16 Club Champions. Having beaten Neston South Wirral 5-2 en route to the final, the boys beat Marlow 4-0, featuring a Morgan Males hat-trick. A phenomenal performance from Izzy Petter guided the girls' team to a fine 7-1 win over Southgate in their showpiece finale. After a tight start, the floodgates opened and Petter scored six goals to seal a Surbiton double.

Victorious Kingston athletes bring home the medals



In the action (left to right): Beckett Whiting, Souleyman Bah and Jessica Westley of Kingston AC & Polytechnic Harriers

JAMIE Gunn and Souleyman Bah of Kingston AC & Polytechnic Harriers were the big winners at the Surrey Disability Champion-

ships, held at Kingsmeadow stadium, last weekend, *writes Tim Ashton*.

Gunn won triple gold in the senior seated discus, javelin

and shot put, and clubmate Bah won gold in the U20s 100m and 200m.

Toby Gold of the Kingsmeadow-based Weir Archer

Academy won triple gold in the senior wheelchair 200m, 100m and 400m.

For more pictures go kingstonguardian.co.uk/sport.



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Baltic Cities & St Petersburg	13 Sep	13	£1,739	FREE
Majestic Fjordland	25 Sep	8	£989	FREE
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'I WILL NEVER BUY SHOES ANYWHERE ELSE AGAIN'

Recruitment manager Andrea Mahn had so much foot pain she could barely walk.

This fit and active 40-year-old had been suffering from Plantar Fasciitis - a painful inflammation of the tissue on the sole of the foot.

"I had treatments by an osteopath, a physiotherapist and a sports therapist but nothing eased the pain," explained Andrea.

Her job requires her to frequently walk and stand, so life was becoming unbearable. She was also unable to partake in her favourite hobby, running.

Andrea saw an advert for Foot Solutions and decided to pay them a visit. "I just turned up hoping that someone would be able to help me," she said, "and it was the best decision I have ever made."

"The staff were knowledgeable, helpful and attentive and after half an hour of tests and examinations they found a solution. It was the most fantastic service I could have imagined."

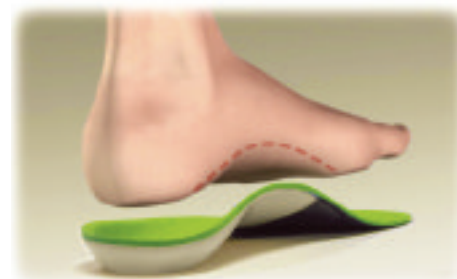
Foot Solutions provided Andrea with custom shoe inserts and a special device to help stretch her foot at night.

"The device gave me immediate relief from the pain, allowing me to sleep better and when the inserts were fitted in my shoes, it made a huge difference."

"I had faced the prospect of never being able to wear high heels again - but I can now wear them for up to 14 hours if necessary."

"I don't suffer at all now," confirmed Andrea, "I can do my job and go running without pain. I will never buy shoes anywhere else again."

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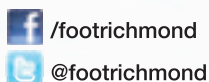
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